



Lesson 3.2 Cross-cultural communication: Religions & Customs

BY LINA WANG

Learning Activities

- 1) Review of Lesson 3.1
- 2) Homework check
- 3) Cross-cultural communication: Religions & Customs
- 4) Homework



Review of Lesson 3.1

Cross-cultural communication
Different ways of thinking



Homework

Have you formed your group for the group presentation on Friday? Have you decided on your topic?

Group presentation on a cultural topic

Reflect: How to thrive in a multicultural environment?

How to thrive in a multicultural environment?

- ▶ **Working in a Multicultural Environment**
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiGpOQrd01s>

- ▶ **Building Bridges in Diverse Workplaces: 4 Essential Skills for Success in Multicultural Environments**
- ▶ <https://www.jumpstartmag.com/building-bridges-in-diverse-workplaces-4-essential-skills-for-success-in-multicultural-environments/>



Cross-cultural communication: Religions & Customs

Discuss:

- ▶ What is a religion?
- ▶ What are the main religions in China?
- ▶ What are the traditional western religions?
- ▶ What is a custom?
- ▶ What are the major differences in Chinese and western traditions and customs?



What is a religion?

- ▶ Religion is a set of organized beliefs, practices, and systems that most often relate to the belief and worship of a controlling force, such as a personal god or another supernatural being.
- ▶ Religion often involves cultural beliefs, worldviews, texts, prophecies, revelations, and morals that have spiritual meaning to members of the particular faith.



Matching game – east or west?

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Confucianism
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Shinto
- Sikhism
- Taoism

Chinese religions

- ▶ Religion in China is diverse and most Chinese people are either non-religious or practice a combination of **Buddhism and Taoism** with a **Confucian** worldview, which is collectively termed as Chinese folk religion.
- ▶ Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism are considered the “three pillars” of ancient Chinese society. As philosophies and religions, they not only influenced spirituality, but also government, science, the arts, and social structure.
- ▶ The government recognizes five official religions – **Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Protestantism, and Catholicism**.
- ▶ **Exercise 1** – read & fill out the form
- ▶ <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/chinese-religions-and-philosophies/>

Traditional western religions



- ▶ Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the three main western religions.
- ▶ The three western religions are similar in many ways. They are Semitic, which means are descendants of Shem, and are monotheistic, or believe in only one G-d, the G-d of Abraham.
- ▶ They believe history is recorded in the Old Testament and that G-d created the world in six days and on the seventh day He rested. They believe the world will one day end on the Judgment Day, when G-d will judge the living and the dead and destroy all evil.
- ▶ All three religions have roots in the City of Jerusalem and you can find Jewish synagogues, Christian churches and Islamic mosques there today.
- ▶ **Worksheet** – read & compare
- ▶ **Exercise 2** – read & answer questions
- ▶ <http://hobart.k12.in.us/ksms/worldreligions/mainindex.htm>
- ▶ <https://study.com/academy/lesson/people-of-the-book-comparing-judaism-christianity-and-islam.html> for more information

What is a custom?

- A custom is an activity, a way of behaving, or an event which is usual or traditional in a particular society or in particular circumstances. 风俗
- **Exercise** – read, tell, & discuss

Homework

1. Prepare for group presentation:

- a. topic and group members
- b. start working on the project**

2. Review today's contents & reflect on the topic:

- ▶ Michael Tomasello writes: “Modern humans became cultural beings... by creating... conventions, norms, and institutions built not on personal but on cultural common ground. They thus became thoroughly group-minded individuals”
- ▶ *Are humans cultural beings?*